

REMARKS

Applicants were requested to elect one of 33 designated groups plus remaining Groups for the purpose of restriction. Applicants traverse this restriction requirement. The pending claims are not difficult to search using modern search techniques, thus it would not be a burden on the USPTO to examine and/or search these claims. Reconsideration is urged.

Notwithstanding the above traversal, Applicants elect Group II (claims 41, 43, 44, 46-49 and 51-56) drawn to, *inter alia*, a variant of an alpha-amylase, wherein the variant comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO: 8 and includes a substitution at a position corresponding to position 170 and a substitution at a position corresponding to position 49 in SEQ ID NO:8.

Claims 41, 43, 44, 45-49 and 51-56 are encompassed by the selected group.

Applicants hereby reserve the right to file continuing-type applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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